

# Introduction

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for the incarceration of felony offenders with a sentence of more than 12 months and community oversight for certain felony and gross misdemeanor offenders sentenced in Washington State Superior Courts.

Central to meeting this responsibility is the management and maintenance of 12 state correctional institutions. These institutions, combined with 15 work release facilities, serve as the primary resource for incarcerating and rehabilitating offenders.

## Preservation of Assets

Preserving assets is vital for the continued use and operation of our facilities. DOC is responsible for over \$2.5 billion in state assets and the facilities range in age from the nearly 130-year-old Washington State Penitentiary to newly constructed buildings. The condition of these facilities has been determined by independent evaluations of roofs, security systems, fire alarm systems, technology infrastructure and environmental threats.

**The Ten Year Plan focuses on these preservation issues:**

- Replacing failing roofs that are well beyond their life span and threatening structural damage to the buildings beneath them.
- Replacement of building electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and structural systems that are at the end of their life.
- Replacing deteriorating utility systems that can be unsafe for staff and offenders, and cause significant energy and water losses.
- Replacing obsolete and failing security, fire alarm and communication systems.
- Protecting the environment and complying with environmental and health regulations for air quality, water, wastewater, and storm water systems.

## Programmatic Needs

**Capacity:** In June, 2014 DOC was operating at 101.6 percent of capacity. The Washington State Caseload Forecast Council estimates the statewide male prison population will increase by 1,292 and female populations will increase by 26 by the year 2024. DOC is requesting funding to conduct pre-design and design studies for construction of new prison capacity for males at the Maple Lane site and for females at the Washington Corrections Center for Women.

**Staff and Community Safety:** In response to ESB 5907, DOC is continuing to make safety improvements for staff and offenders in the prison environment. The Ten Year Plan projects that most prominently address this area are Security Video Systems, Body Alarm Systems, and Proximity Card Systems. These projects are also necessary to support DOC's compliance with the 2012 Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) regulations.

**Offender Change Programs, Operations, and Support Services:** The DOC is committed to changing offender behavior through programs that will prepare them for community employment and decrease the rate of return to prisons. This will be accomplished through effective risk assessments and evidence-based programs that meet specific needs and increase offender readiness for re-entry. The Ten Year Plan identifies a number of projects that provide needed space for offender education, treatment, programming and operational support at our correctional facilities.

**Special Needs Populations:** DOC is challenged with providing housing units for special needs populations including but not limited to developmentally disabled, traumatic brain injury, and aging offenders. This involves converting existing capacity to meet the specialized population needs for health/safety, education, and programming of these growing populations.

**Health Care Needs:** Facility improvements are needed to update the existing medical facility at the Airway Heights Correction Center, Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women, Washington Corrections Center and the Monroe Correctional Complex. Often times, we must locate offenders based on the institution's health care facility and available medical services.

**Work Release:** These facilities serve a critical role in transitioning offenders from prison to the community and investments must be made to maintain the buildings and infrastructure. The Ten Year Plan includes a statewide project to install security video systems to enhance safety and security at our work release facilities.

**Environmental Compliance:** Several of the projects identified in the Ten Year Plan will meet the legislative, gubernatorial, and legal requirements for sustainability, supporting reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, achieving energy efficiency in state buildings, preserving fish bearing stream habitat, removing risks of untreated wastewater spills, and a general move towards a greener economy.

**Regulatory Compliance:** State and Federal requirements continue to mandate changes and improvements in facilities around the state. A significant number of environmental, code and human health and safety concerns are behind many requests. Technological improvements mandated by legislative, public and legal expectations are also driving project requests.

## Conclusion

DOC faces the challenge of managing expansions to accommodate growth, maintaining aging facilities, meeting health care and regulatory requirements, ensuring a safe work environment, restoring the technological infrastructure of facilities, and improving sustainability. These requirements, maintenance needs and costs have been documented through studies, assessments and other detailed plans conducted to prepare this submittal. This Ten Year Capital Plan summarizes the capital investment that the state must make to maintain a safe, efficient and environmentally compliant correctional system.